

## Part 7. Maps and signs

### **Maps**

Maps are used by drivers to guide them in their travels. The NJ Department of Transportation publishes an official transportation map and guide for highways and public transit. It also contains useful tips on a wide array of cultural, recreational and historical attractions that make New Jersey special. To receive your map, call (800) Jersey7.

Drivers should keep maps of their destinations in their vehicles and should know how to read them.

Maps are easy to use. For example, to find a town, look in the map index, note the letter and number after the name, and match each to the numbers and letters on the sides of the map. The lines that cross the map from that number and letter combination form a defined area. Then you can locate your town in that squared-off area.

### **Traffic signs, signals and road markings**

Traffic signs, signals and road markings are set up to control the flow of traffic, making streets and highways safer for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

The U.S. Department of Transportation reported an increase of 18 percent in fatal crashes at traffic signals in the United States between 1992 and 1998. There were 5,951 deaths nationally and 154 in New Jersey caused by drivers who ran red lights during that period. To be a safe driver, watch for and obey all traffic signals, signs and road markings.



During heavy traffic or in an emergency, an officer may direct traffic. A traffic officer can overrule traffic signals. His orders or directions must always be obeyed.

If you steal or damage airport, traffic or railroad crossing signs or equipment the court will impose penalties of:

- a crime of the fourth degree to deface, injure or remove an official traffic sign, light or safety device at any airport, landing field or similar facility,
- a crime of the third degree if the act recklessly causes bodily injury or property damage,
- a crime of the second degree if the act recklessly causes death.

## Traffic signals

When traffic signals are hung vertically, the red light is always on top. The yellow is in the center. The green light is third in line. If there is a green arrow, it is always on the bottom. When the lights are horizontal, red is always on the left.

### Red light

Stop before the intersection or crosswalk and remain standing until green is shown alone.

### Yellow light

When shown alone, traffic should stop before entering the intersection or crosswalk, unless the vehicle is so close to the intersection that it cannot be stopped safely. A **yellow arrow** means the signal is changing from green to red, and gives the driver a chance to stop safely.

### Green light

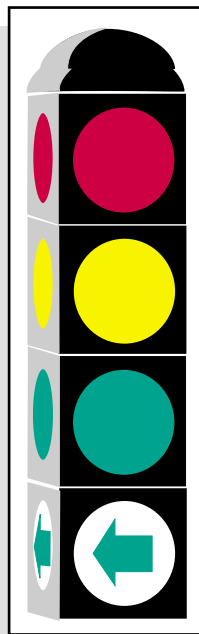
Go if the intersection is clear. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles still in the intersection and when you turn left or right. Before you make a left turn, yield to vehicles going straight.

### Green arrow

When shown alone or in combination with the red signal, proceed only as shown by the arrow. Be cautious and yield to people on foot.

### Flashing yellow light

Slow down and proceed with care.



## Flashing red light

Stop. Yield to traffic and pedestrians. Go only when safe.

## Unlit signal

Stop if a signal does not have any of its bulbs working and no one is directing traffic. Look left and right. Yield to traffic coming from your right or left. Be careful and go only when safe.

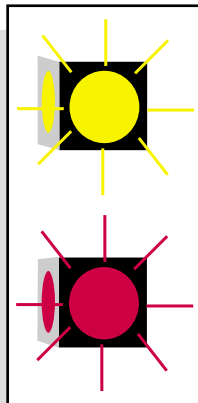
## Steady raised palm symbol (orange)

Pedestrians must not leave the sidewalk or enter the roadway when facing the light. Those already in the roadway should quickly go to a safe spot. Pedestrians already within the crosswalk will have time to cross the intersection before the signal changes. Those who have not yet left the sidewalk or curb should not enter the roadway.

## Steady pedestrian silhouette (white)

Pedestrians facing the signal may cross the roadway in the direction of the signal. New Jersey law requires turning motorists to yield to pedestrians crossing on this signal and to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

**Pedestrian pushbuttons** are located at certain traffic signals. A short



**Don't Walk**



**Walk**



**Pedestrian  
Crossing  
Ahead**



**Pedestrian  
Crossing**



**Bike  
Crossing  
Ahead**



**Bike  
Crossing**

time after the button is pushed, the flow of traffic at the intersection changes to a longer green for the side street.

Traffic engineers use color, such as an optional yellow-green or a standard yellow for the pedestrian crossing and bicycle warning signs of utmost importance. They alert New Jersey motorists that they must share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists and yield to them.

## Traffic signs

Signs are divided into three basic categories: regulatory, warning and guidance signs. The signs...

...**warn** you of hazards ahead that would otherwise be difficult to see;

...**guide** you to your destination by clearly identifying the route;

...**regulate** traffic speed and movement.

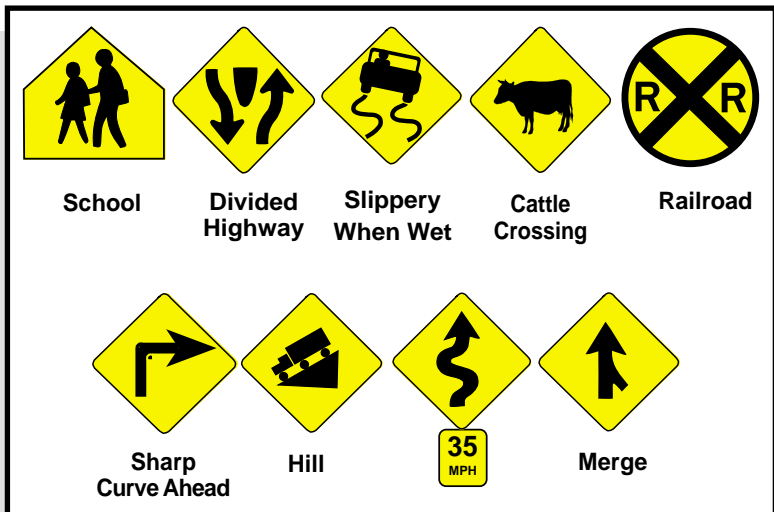
The signs are manufactured in different shapes and colors to convey a particular message.

Examples of the various sign types, shapes and colors follow.

Color	Shape	Message
Black	Vertical rectangle	Regulation (such as speed signs)*
Blue	Rectangle, square	Motorists' services and information
Brown	Rectangle	Public recreation and scenic guidance
Green	Rectangle	Direction guidance
Orange	Diamond	Construction and maintenance warning
Red	Octagon	<b>STOP</b> signs only
Red	Triangle	<b>YIELD</b> signs
White	Various	Regulation
Yellow	Pennant	No passing warning sign
Yellow	Pentagon	School signs
Yellow	Round	Railroad warning signs
Yellow	Diamond	Roadway hazard signs

\*When the maximum safe speed around a curve or turn is lower than the posted speed limit, an advisory speed sign is used with the proper warning sign.

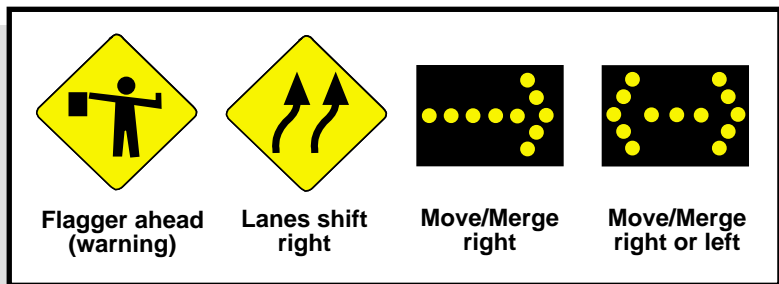
**Warning signs** are for road conditions that need caution and specific hazards that may be encountered during certain road operations. Some of the warning



signs alert drivers to road conditions, cattle crossings or curved roadways. The signs are yellow and shaped like a diamond with a black symbol or word message.

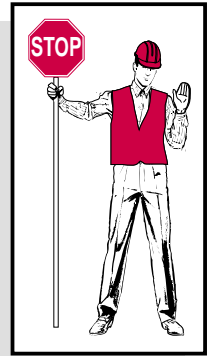
**Road work signs** alert drivers to a variety of temporary roadway conditions. It's important to look for:

- orange, diamond shaped signs that warn the driver of lane closings, lane shifts, flaggers, uneven pavement and detours. Road work may temporarily close lanes or divert them, changing traffic patterns.
- reduced speed limit signs that are posted alongside orange work zone signs. In New Jersey, all traffic fines are doubled in work zones.



## Go slow:

- to control the distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you and your reaction time. You will have time to read signs, follow directions and prepare to slow down or stop.
- to stay alert to the moving construction machinery in the work zone. With patience you will contribute to the overall safety of motorists and workers in the work zone.
- to watch for workers on the road who risk injury, possibly death. Flaggers may stop and release



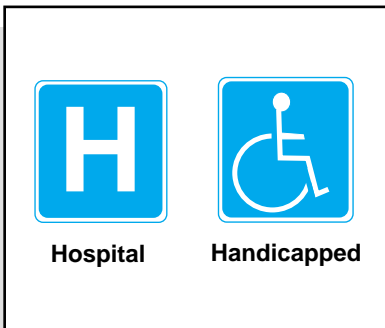
traffic through the work zone.

Note that flaggers have the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you may be cited if you disobey their directions.

**Motorist Service signs** have white letters or symbols on a blue background and provide information about motorist services.

Some examples are shown at left.

**Guidance signs** identify destinations and routes for motorists, such as:



**Hospital**

**Handicapped**



**City/Town with Arrow**

**U.S. Route Marker**

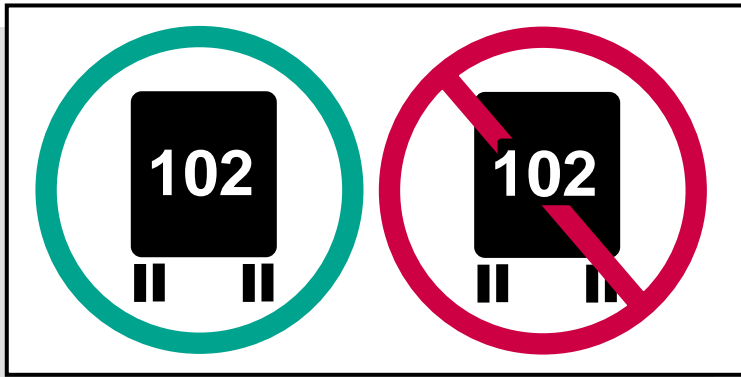
**State Route Marker**

**County Route Marker**

**Regulatory signs** are generally rectangular with the longer dimension vertical, and have a black legend and border on a white background. The STOP sign is octagonal, and has a white legend and border on a red background. The

YIELD sign is a white inverted triangle with a red legend and border band. The DO NOT ENTER sign is a white square with a red circle that has a white band horizontally across the center of the circle and the words DO NOT ENTER in white letters on the upper and lower parts of the circle. Commonly used regulatory signs are:





Two national signs that indicate where certain interstate through trucks can or cannot travel are now being used in New Jersey:

Green: marks the routes and ramps where trucks are permitted; also marks the travel route to services and terminals.

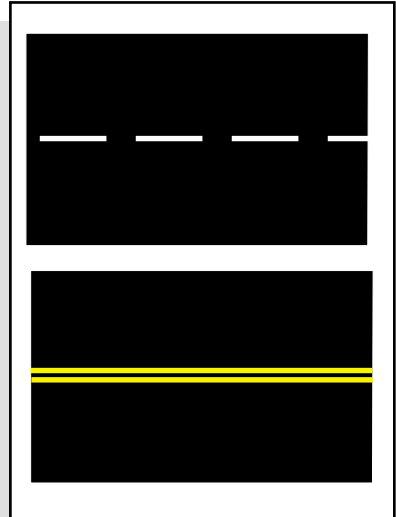
Red: marks the routes and ramps where trucks are prohibited; also marks the ends of designated routes.

### Road markings

Road markings have the same force of law as signs or traffic signals:

- **yellow center lines** separate traffic flow going in opposite directions;
- **white lines** separate traffic going the same way when there is more than one lane and show edges of roads;
- **dashed lines** on your side of the center line of the road mean passing is permitted when safe; and
- **a solid line** on your side of the center line means do not pass.

Road arrows, when used with other signs, show the correct direction. You must make the movement shown





by the arrow in your lane. Watch for road markings. Know what they mean. Obey them.

**White dashed lines** separate traffic lanes on multi-lane highways.

**Yellow solid lines** prohibit passing. Do not cross the solid yellow line to pass. Stay in your lane. Keep to the right when driving slowly.

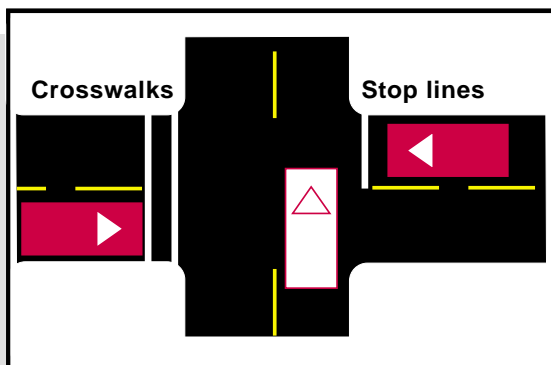
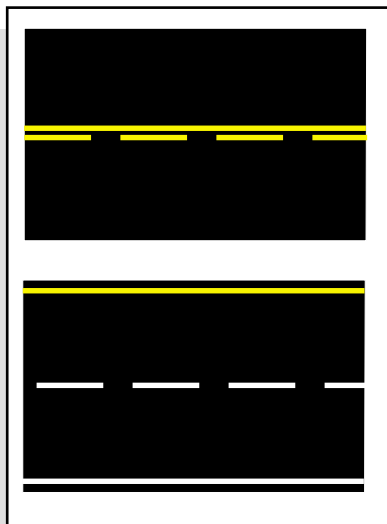
**Yellow solid and dashed lines** control passing. If the solid yellow line is on your side of the road, do not pass. Pass only if the dashed line is on your side of the road.

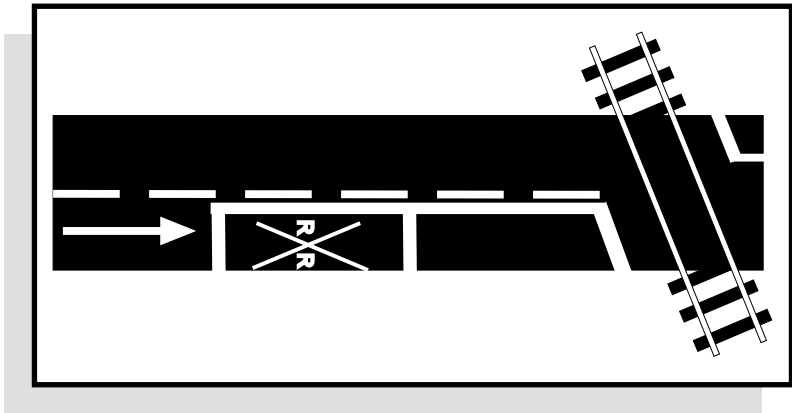
**White edgelines** separate the right shoulder from the travel lane and show the right edges of the highways; yellow edgelines separate the left shoulder from the travel lane and show the left edge of the highway.

**White crosswalks** indicate pedestrian crossing areas. Pedestrians should use these areas when crossing the road. At intersections where stop lines are missing, stop before the crosswalk when required to stop by traffic signs or signals or for pedestrians.

**White stop lines** show where to stop at stop signs or traffic signals.

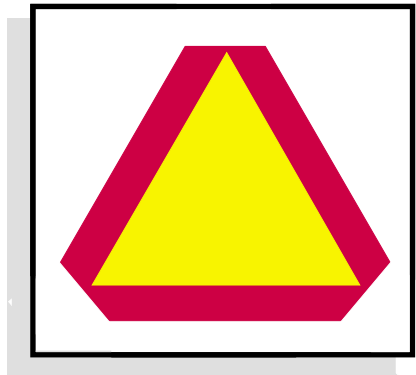
**White special markings** show special conditions, such as **STOP AHEAD**, **SCHOOL** and **R X R** as a driver alert. At some railroad crossings you may see the crossbuck, some flashing lights and/or gate lowered across the road as a train approaches. The pavement markings, signs and crossbucks are passive warnings; the flashing lights and lowered gates are active warnings. You must always yield to trains.





**White diamonds** indicate high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes reserved for a particular vehicle type or vehicles carrying multiple riders as identified by posted regulatory signs. Such signs will also indicate hours that HOV lanes are in operation. HOV lanes may also be marked with white diamonds painted on the pavement of the lane.

**Special warning sign** alerts motorists to slow-moving vehicles. A **fluorescent and reflective orange triangular sign** indicates slow-moving vehicles such as farm and construction equipment operating on public highways. The operators must obey all traffic rules, and place a slow-moving vehicle sign on the back of their vehicles to warn approaching drivers.



## Rumble strips

Transverse and longitudinal rumble strips are small indentations or narrow raised strips on the highway or shoulder that are put there to alert the driver there's a decision point ahead (such as a four-way intersection after miles of uninterrupted travel). As the strips vibrate the steering wheel and make a noise inside the vehicle, they will wake the driver who may have dozed off or caution the driver about the danger of passing.

Rumble strips will not damage your vehicle; they will not force you to drive slowly; and they are almost always used with a cautionary sign.



## Study questions for Parts 4-7

1. If you're driving at night on a local road and see a jogger ahead, what should you do?
2. You're driving and see a bicyclist on the roadway, what do you do?
3. What is the no-zone principle?
4. If you stop on a highway for an emergency, have put out flares, put on your emergency warning lights and have raised the hood, is there anything else you can do to show you need help?
5. Your car stalls on railroad tracks as you're crossing them. A train is coming. Should you keep trying to start the car or get out to safety and leave the car?
6. How do you stop your vehicle quickly and avoid an accident?
7. What do you do in case of an accident?
8. Are auto body repair shops in New Jersey licensed?
9. Can I register a car? I'm 16 years old.
10. I have to get my car inspected. What documents do I need?
11. You're driving and see a flashing red traffic signal. What do you do?
12. Straight ahead there is an orange, diamond-shaped sign with the message ROAD WORK AHEAD. What does this sign mean?
13. What do (1) an 8-sided traffic sign and (2) a triangular sign mean?
14. What does a yellow solid stripe on your side of the roadway center line mean?
15. What do white lines across a road mean?

## Answers

1. Slow down, blow your horn. Always yield to pedestrians.
2. You must yield to the bicyclist.
3. The area around trucks where cars disappear into blind spots or are so close that they restrict the truck driver's ability to stop or maneuver safely.
4. Yes. Tie a white handkerchief to the antenna or left door handle as a signal for help.
5. Get out.
6. If you have conventional disc and drum brakes, pump your brakes to gain better control. If you have antilock brakes (ABS), they will adjust automatically. Just put maximum pressure on them and retain steering control without pumping the brakes.
7. Stop, call for help, notify police, give information and notify your insurance company.
8. Yes. If you have doubts about any shop, call (609) 984-9633.
9. No. You must be 17 or older to register a vehicle in New Jersey.
10. You must show a valid driver license, the new registration and a valid insurance identification card before the inspection begins.
11. Stop. Yield to traffic and pedestrians. Go only when safe.
12. The sign warns of a road work zone ahead with possible lane closings, lane shifts, flaggers, uneven pavements or detours.
13. (1) STOP; (2) YIELD.
14. Do not pass.
15. They show where to stop at traffic signals, pedestrian walking lanes and stop signs.